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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT Committee to Solve Manpower Crisis

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1. As the result of pressure from Soviet authorities, the Czechoslovak Government has decided to set up a special committee to rehabilitate the morale of the working classes and to solve the continuing manpower crisis. This committee was given full power for a period of six months, from 1 Oct 53 to 30 Mar 54.

2. The committee is made up of Josef Reitmaier, Minister of Mining; Gustav Kliment, Chairman of the syndicate organization Central Labor Union Council (URO); Václav Nosek, Minister of Manpower; Dr. Engineer Emanuel Slechte, Minister of Construction; Antonín Popelář, Minister of Transport; Karel Poláček, Minister of Heavy Industry.

3. During the life of the committee there are to be recruited: 43,000 men for mines, 35,000 men for heavy industry, 13,000 men for communications and 17,000 men for building construction.

4. The recruitment of these laborers is considered necessary to prevent the total collapse of the economic plan in 1954. Priorities will be given to the following enterprises, where help is urgently needed: NHKG of Kuncice; Huko in East Slovakia; 15,000 housing units in Prague, Moravská Ostrava, and Pilsen; the new Prague-Brno railroad via Havlíčkův Brod, and the north Bohemian coal district.

5. Permission has been given to the Aufbau und Frieden organization to recruit 12,000 Sudeten Germans, who were expelled in 1945.

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